

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3682
ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014
LITERATURE SOLD AT BOOKSTALLS ON RAILWAY STATIONS
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any precise definition of obscenity/objectionable literature not to be sold on bookstalls at Railway Station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Railways have received complaint for sale of such objectionable literature on bookstall at Railway Station in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY)

(a) and (b): The definition of obscene literature has been given in Section 292 of Indian Penal Code 1860 and the Indian Railways follows this definition being law of the land. Accordingly, sale of all types of obscene, scurrilous, smutty, pornographic, offensive or objectionable publications including pirated books is prohibited at all bookstalls on Indian Railways.

(c) and (d): Yes, Madam. Railways have received some complaints for sale of such pirated/ objectionable, substandard, unethical literature on bookstalls at railway stations. To overcome such complaints, Zonal Railways have been advised to take stringent action against defaulter licensees.